IN THE CLAIMS:

1. – 30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) A method of detecting a chemical leakage comprising the steps of:

positioning a device in a site which is normally surrounded by a first medium, the site being in a region of potential chemical leakage of a second medium, the device comprising an indicator element which is held in a first position by means of a failure element which is held in tension, the failure element being made of a material which is designed not to fail in the first medium, but to fail readily in the presence of the second medium ~~fails in the event of a chemical leak~~, thereby releasing the indicator element from its first position and allowing it to move into a second position in order to provide a rapid indication of the leak; and

monitoring the failure element to determine when it has moved to the second position indicating the presence of a leak.

32. (Currently Amended) A method of detecting a chemical leakage comprising the steps of:

positioning an arrangement for detecting the presence of a chemical leak over a predetermined area at a site which is normally surrounded by a first medium, the site being in a region of potential chemical leakage of a second medium, the arrangement comprising a plurality of devices arranged over the area, each device comprising an indicator element which is held in a first position by means of a failure element which is held in tension, the failure element being made of a material which is designed not to fail in the first medium, but to fail readily in the presence of the second medium ~~fails in the event of a chemical leak~~, thereby releasing the indicator element from its first position and allowing it to move into a second position in order to provide a rapid indication of the leak; and

monitoring each failure element to determine when it has moved to the second position indicating the presence of a leak.

33. (Previously Presented) A method of detecting leaks from a vessel in a filling station containing a potential source of chemical contaminants, the method comprising the steps of:

positioning a device in the ground beneath a vessel; and

monitoring a failure element to determine when it has moved to a second position indicating the presence of a leak, whereby the device for detecting the presence of a chemical contaminant comprises an indicator element which is held in a first position by means of the failure element which is held in tension, the failure element being made of a material which fails in the presence of the chemical contaminant, thereby releasing the indicator element from its first position and allowing it to move into a second position in order to provide an indication of the presence of the contaminant.

34. (Previously Presented) A method of detecting leaks from a vessel in a filling station containing a potential source of chemical contaminants, the method comprising the steps of:

positioning a device in the ground beneath the vessel, the device having indicator element held in a first position by a failure element, the failure element is held in tension and is made of a material which fails in the event of a chemical leak, thereby releasing the indicator element from the first position to a second position in order to provide a rapid indication of the chemical leak; and

monitoring the failure element to determine when it has moved to the second position indicating the presence of the chemical leak.

35. (Previously Presented) A method of detecting leaks from a vessel in a filling station containing a potential source of chemical contaminant, the method comprising the steps of:

positioning an arrangement in the ground beneath a vessel, the arrangement comprising a plurality of devices, each device having indicator element held in a first position by a failure element, the failure element is held in tension and is made of a material which fails in the event of a chemical leak, thereby releasing the indicator

element from the first position to a second position in order to provide a rapid indication of the chemical leak; and

monitoring each failure element to determine when it has moved to the second position indicating the presence of the chemical leak.